

Adrift or underway?

This time of year is a lazy time of year (at least here in the Northern Hemisphere) – people are taking vacations, the kids are out of school, the weather is nicer.

It's a good time of year to run adrift – and there's danger in that.

Earl Nightingale used to tell about the ocean liner – even though its speed was modest, it still arrived at its destination – because it would keep going, all the time, with its bow headed toward port, never giving up, never sleeping, constantly moving. Before long, that ocean liner would enter port and arrive at its destination.

That's the way we should be – we need a destination, and we need to continue underway until we arrive at that destination. That's one of the prime methods to achieve success – no matter how you define the word success – set a goal, and keep working until you achieve it.

Many of us, though are not moving toward that destination – that port of call, if you will. We are either still anchored at the pier, or we're cast adrift, floating this way and that, moved by the currents and the winds to whatever end we may achieve.

What's the problem about drifting along, like a piece of driftwood in the current?

As men and women, we are given a life – and living that life is our responsibility. When we allow ourselves to drift aimlessly along, we give up that responsibility – we give up the right to live our lives the way we see fit.

Just as a ship without someone at the helm may hit the rocks and be lost, so when we allow ourselves to drift, we increase our chance of calamity.

There are the others who never set forth from port – they are so scared or unsure of themselves, they decide to never sail forth – they stick to what they know – never allowing them to develop into someone better, someone greater.

They in effect give up their opportunity for a false sense of security.

For those people who haven't yet hauled the anchor in their lives and set out on a journey of discovery, let me relate two pieces of advice from a couple of wise and successful people:

Most of the reason why people stay at anchor in their lives is because they are afraid of failure.

In a recent address at Harvard commencement, author J.K. Rowling said this: “Some failure in life is inevitable. It is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all – in which case, you fail by default.”

Then let’s look at this marvelous quote from Dale Carnegie: “The person who gets the farthest is generally the one who is willing to do and dare. The sure-thing boat never gets far from shore.”

Some of us may be adrift at present, while some others are still at anchor, and many might be heading for their destination.

It’s important that we use our abilities to their fullest – and to do that, we’re going to need to put ourselves on course, or stick to the course that is best for us, if we’re already underway.

I’m not much of a boater, but even I can understand that boats are made to sail – and sticking around in port isn’t what boats are made for. Plus, if we want to ever get anywhere in our travels, it helps if we know where we want to wind up – and then set sail for that destination, full speed ahead.

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